

the devastating drought affecting Utah this year.

Ninety percent of the West is experiencing extreme drought conditions. This includes every county in the great State of Utah—already one of the driest States in the Union.

Drought impacts lives and livelihoods. One of the Juab County farmers in my district runs a farm that has been in his family for three generations. This year, his farm has yielded zero output because of the drought. Unfortunately, his story is not unique.

Aquifers are not recharging, springs are dry, wells are pumping harder than ever before, and farmers are facing increased power costs. This means fewer crops and fewer dollars in the pockets of our rural farmers. On top of that, Utah's drought conditions make devastating wildfires more likely and harder to fight.

Each one of us has an important role to play in conserving resources and adapting for the near future and beyond. Utah's livelihoods and generational family farms are at stake, and I stand ready to assist local leaders and our State's Federal delegation to ensure the safety and prosperity of every Utahn.

I call upon the Biden administration to step up their efforts on the interagency working group that is supposed to be addressing these severe conditions.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE SUE MYRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize former U.S. Representative Sue Myrick who has a landmark birthday this Sunday.

Congresswoman Myrick served the people of North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District from 1995 to 2013. Before that, Sue made history in 1987 when she scored a major upset against a two-term Democrat to become the first female mayor of Charlotte. Importantly, before politics, Sue was known for her faith life as a Sunday school teacher and private sector career as an advertising executive.

In Congress for the Ninth District, Sue was a notable and effective conservative chairing the Republican Study Committee. Protecting America from foreign threats and securing our border defined her congressional career. As important, she was and is kind and caring, and she provided legendary constituent service. I am honored to serve in her place today and fondly remember her campaign slogan: We need Sue Myrick in Congress because "Sue Myrick gets things done."

Happy birthday to Sue.

□ 1045

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABOR- TION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a staunch defender of the rights of the unborn, as a defender of the idea that human life begins at conception. But these ideals are being threatened today like never before.

This week, I join my fellow Republicans in speaking out in support of the Hyde amendment and other pro-life provisions stripped from appropriations bills by the Democratic majority.

The Hyde amendment is and has been a bipartisan provision included in every Federal spending measure for the past four decades. It has ensured that the lives of the unborn are protected and that no Federal tax dollars are used to fund abortions.

Very simply, the Hyde amendment saves lives.

I am committed to ending the blight of abortion on our Nation and to stand with all I have to fight to protect the rights and the lives of the unborn.

My Democratic colleagues are great at changing terms and changing names. By definition, healthcare protects and improves lives, yet Democrats changed "healthcare" to include abortion. But abortion does not improve or defend life; it takes life. It is not healthcare.

For this reason, Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the House is in session solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, that unanimous consent request cannot be entertained at this time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SCANLON) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, bring this day into Your keeping. As much as we want to grab the reins and take charge, relieve us of our own need to control everything in our way, our inclination to disparage people with whom we can't see eye to eye, and our innate fear of the uncertainties that threaten our sense of security.

You alone have dominion over our days. You alone bring order out of chaos. May we yield our whole selves to Your authority.

Guide all our thoughts and feelings. Direct our energies that we would not become tangled in futile efforts and vain arguments.

Instruct our minds. May we not rely on our own understanding, but trust Your direction to make our paths straight. Sustain our wills and our bodies as long hours turn into late nights and little rest devolves into short tempers.

Into Your hands may we willingly and faithfully commend the business of this day.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VALADAO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FUNDING PACKAGE THAT PRIORITIZES WORKERS, FAMIL- LIES, AND COMMUNITIES

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4502, a funding package that prioritizes workers, families, and communities.

This bill delivers in a major way for Buffalo and western New York. It will fight cancer in underserved neighborhoods by helping Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center establish a lung cancer screening registry.

It preserves local history at the Buffalo Naval Park and the Albright-Knox

Art Gallery. It trains our future workforce by investing in training programs at the West Side Bazaar, the Buffalo Sewer Authority, and Buffalo State's Small Business Development Center.

It will better connect our community to nature, something the pandemic has shown to be a critical life-quality asset, at the Shoreline Trail and The Riverline projects.

Budgetary documents are a statement of our values. This package says our children, veterans, families, and communities are our most important investments.

ADDRESSING THE WESTERN DROUGHT

(Mr. VALADAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment in the majority's unwillingness to address the western drought.

A couple weeks ago, I introduced three amendments to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill, each of which would make strides toward alleviating the devastating drought in California.

My first amendment, which would extend funding authorizations for water storage projects under the WIIN Act for 1 year, would allow California to make the most of our wet years and ensure families and farmers have a clean, reliable source of water in times of drought. My colleagues in the majority voted "no."

My second amendment would codify the 2019 Biological Opinions, following the most accurate and best available science. Following the science and putting the needs of people before fish should really be a no-brainer. My colleagues in the majority voted "no."

My third amendment would create a grant program to fund the acceleration and completion of repairs to damaged canal infrastructure facilities to enable farmers to comply with State pumping limits. My colleagues in the majority voted "no."

Real people need our help, and it is clear the majority is unwilling to provide it. I will not stop fighting to bring a solution to the Central Valley.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THOMAS DOMBROSKI

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Thomas Dombroski, who we lovingly call Tom.

Tom was a longtime resident of southwest Detroit, who contributed actively to several community-based organizations and was especially known for his service as a board member of the Southwest Detroit Community

Benefits Coalition. He was also a very proud member of the Teamsters.

Tom was tough, a big-hearted person whose sense of humor and warmth belied his tenacity in the fight to protect his community, which was contagious. Tom was a champion of the underdog and advocated for justice on behalf of those who needed it most.

Before he retired, Tom's work with the Teamsters Union prepared him for his second act in life as a community advocate for equitable development of the Gordie Howe International Bridge crossing.

He was outspoken in the fight for clean air and good quality of life for residents who live in the shadow of the large scale transportation infrastructure. I have always known Tom to be generous with his time and energy.

His spirit will be sorely missed by the community he served. Please join me as we recognize Thomas Dombroski's many contributions to the families of southwest Detroit and beyond as we give honor to his memory.

SUPPORT OF PRO-LIFE RIDERS

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, today the House majority will likely pass the faulty Health Appropriations bill, which eliminates the protection of the Hyde and Weldon amendments. This will happen despite polling that consistently shows nearly 60 percent of Americans oppose the use of hard-earned taxpayer dollars for abortion. And even more compelling, more than 75 percent of Americans oppose the use of their tax dollars to pay for abortions overseas.

As we all know, the Hyde amendment prevents the use of Federal tax dollars for abortions. This policy rider has withstood the test of time and enjoyed bipartisan support for 45 years, including from Senator Joe Biden.

But just as important to me, as a physician, is the Weldon amendment, which prevents healthcare providers from being compelled to participate in a medical procedure to which they hold religious or moral objections, namely abortion. Removing this protection would result in gross violations of the Constitutional rights of Americans.

Madam Speaker, the Hyde and Weldon amendments are just two examples of commonsense measures we have enacted over the years to protect life. I urge my colleagues in the majority to reconsider dismantling these important protections of the right to life.

THREAT TO OUR DEMOCRACY

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I would like to address my remarks to President Biden.

Mr. President, as you rightly said in Philadelphia this month, we face the most dangerous threat to free and fair elections in our history. To meet this threat to our democracy, we need only do what is plainly possible: Use our majorities to pass the For the People Act.

But we cannot succeed unless you call for abolishing or reforming the filibuster.

You have urged the American people to be, "clear-eyed about the obstruction we face." Well, that obstruction comes not only from Republicans, but also from Members of our own party.

I know that you do not have a voice in the Senate. But you do have a voice, the most powerful on the planet. Unless you use it to lead, the Senators who stand in the way of democracy will continue to do so.

The truth is, Mr. President, we can't just out-organize partisan gerrymanders. We can't just out-vote a party that is committed to overturning elections whose results they don't like.

And we better not ask Black and Brown voters to do twice as much to save our democracy, when we in Washington cannot be bothered to do half as much as we should.

We need new laws and we need your help to pass them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, the Hyde amendment has long been a bipartisan measure that prevents taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortions. It is shocking to me that my Democrat colleagues are working to eliminate this amendment. Make no mistake, the Hyde amendment saves lives.

I will continue to do my part to support pro-life legislation because our creator endowed every one of us with certain unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. After all, if we are unwilling to fight for life, what are we willing to fight for?

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES). Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.